



Dr. Mary L. Livers, Deputy Secretary

The November issue of *The Inside Scoop...of OJJ* marks the one-year anniversary of your newsletter. We don't always receive a lot of feedback, but we do receive a lot of information, so I am assuming that you enjoy reading about the goings-on statewide.

I'm happy that we have a way to share information with one another, considering that OJJ has over a thousand employees in 16 locations all over the state. Families need to keep in touch and let each other know about significant events and news. *The Inside Scoop* is our way of keeping the OJJ family informed.

In this issue, for the fourth time in seven months, we have a report about yet another OJJ hero/heroine. **New Orleans OJJ's PPS Shawn Herbert** noticed a vehicle on fire and her quick actions saved the family inside the car. Please see the story on Page 21. I can't say enough about Shawn's unselfish actions. I am so proud of her – Shawn represents the best of OJJ and exemplifies who we are and what we do. I never get used to hearing about the truly heroic and selfless actions taken by our staff. These actions are extraordinary in the truest sense of the word. I never want to hear a story like this and take it for granted.

Another OJJ great is **New Orleans OJJ's PPO 3 Stanley Schofield**, who was recently honored for his work with youth. See Page 20. I've never worked with anyone before who had a street named after them!

As we plan for Thanksgiving, one of the things I am most thankful for is the privilege and honor to work alongside such wonderful people.

"Doc" Dr. Mary L. Livers

Soul Food

An inspirational column by OJJ staff



Swanson Chaplain Ricky James

WHAT TO DO IN HOT WATER

In Scripture there is an incident where two men, Paul and Silas, were whipped, beaten, placed in stocks (leg irons), and cast into prison for preaching the Word. They were in the uttermost part of the prison, and in the middle of the night, they sang praises and prayed, and the Creator delivered them out of their stocks, and out of prison.

All of us will have some "Hot Water" experiences. Some days we will be in places we would rather not be, in situations or predicaments, that make us feel uncomfortable or out of place. Those places I have labeled "Hot Water." And in Hot Water, we have a lot in common with the Tea Bag. The tea bag is really no good until it is placed in hot water. It is only in hot water that you can see what's in the tea bag. Only in hot water can the contents of the tea bag come out. Only in hot water can a person really taste the flavor of the tea. And only in hot water can the tea really help anybody.

And unless we have gone through some hot water experiences, we really can't help anybody, and people really don't know what we are made out of. Hot situations bring out the best in us.

We ought learn a lesson from the tea kettle. Notice the tea kettle, the hotter it gets, the louder it sings. The hotter it gets, the louder it goes. I just want to tell you, don't let your hot situation stop you from doing what you know is right. Don't you let your hot situation keep you from praising your Creator. Don't you let the troubles you have gone through keep

you from making a joyful noise. In trouble, that's the time you really ought to make a joyful noise unto the Creator.

And so, in the case of Paul and Silas, they were placed in a hot situation. They had not done anything wrong. All they did was to tell people about the Savior, and what He has done for them, and what He could do for others. And for that they were whipped, beaten, placed in stocks, and thrown into a dark and dismal prison cell. Because Paul and Silas believed their Creator, they knew that he could, if he chose, give them what they wanted. But they knew he would do what was best for them. And he could, if he chose to, give us what we want, but the Creator knows what is best for us.

Scripture says while they were in their hot water situation, Paul and Silas sang praises and prayed. And that's what I'm purposing for us to do in our hot water situations, that we too, sing praises and pray.

Humbly submitted, Chaplain Ricky L. James

THE DAILY MOTIVATOR

There is no rule that says you have to be troubled by your troubles. There is no requirement that you must become disappointed by the disappointments. You are not obligated to be stressed out by stressful situations. To the extent that you do these things, they're little more than habits you've learned that can be changed like any others.

In fact, there are plenty of reasons to be encouraged by the disappointments. For in each of them are numerous ways you can learn and grow stronger. There are all kinds of great reasons to remain positive, calm and focused in stressful situations. For in those highly stressful situations, when you can stay level-headed and clear, you'll find the most valuable opportunities.

Think of how welcome and valued a shining light would be in the middle of the darkest night. Each day, when things go from bad to worse, when the frustrations and anxieties mount, you have the chance to be that shining light. And truly what a great opportunity that is.

-- Ralph Marston

OJJ's Fifth Anniversary Celebrations

OJJ Celebrates Five Years of Progress

By Lajuana Jordan, BCCY

On October 14 the Office of Juvenile Justice celebrated five years as a cabinet level agency. This separation allowed Dr. Livers, as agency head of OJJ, to work directly with our governor to produce change for our youth. These actions, together with creation of the Children and Youth Planning Boards in 2004, provided the framework for reform that we see today, and remains a continuous effort.

As you entered the gymnasium at Jetson Center for Youth, there was a presence of family, a nicely decorated building to welcome those who traveled both near and far to celebrate the mission and vision of the Office of Juvenile Justice. The staff at Jetson did a wonderful job in setting up and welcoming the family.

Chef Ron Sonnier and his culinary arts class traveled from Bridge City Center for Youth to help prepare a festive menu for the event. Chef Sonnier said "We traveled very early in the morning to get to Jetson." The birthday menu was comprised of a saying often used by our own: "HAVE FAITH." The menu included Harmonious Jambalaya, Amazing White Beans, Vital Drummettes, Electrifying Tossed Salad w/dressing along with Fabulous Garlic French Bread, Attractive Vegetable Tray, Intriguing Fruit Tray, Tempting Punch, Coffee and Water and Homemade Cookies and Birthday Cake.

Dr. Mary Livers introduced dignitaries and was also a speaker. Also, there to share a few words were **Senator Elbert Guillory**, **State Representative Ledricka Thierry** and **Don Menard**, president of St. Landry Parish, who expressed excitement for the new state-of-the-art regional, therapeutic facility to be built in St. Landry Parish. Dr. Livers is also excited

about the proposed new facility, stressing "it's a dream come true" as she talked about the facility's geographical location.

Another person who took time to speak with the youth after the program was **Collis Temple**. Mr. Temple operates a private, non-profit organization for foster children and mentally disabled adults and oversees many facilities throughout Louisiana. He operates Louisiana Health and Rehabilitation Options.

The Jetson choir entertained the audience with their soulful rendition of "Still Alive" performed by **Youth Jordan H.** and **Major Seletar Gosa**.

Youth were allowed to express what their lives are like at Jetson and how things have changed for them while housed at the facility. **Youth Jordan H.**, 20, spoke of his time at Jetson as a repeat offender. He acknowledges the change that has taken place throughout his time at the Jetson. As he talked about the idea of 'circle-ups', Jordan said "I didn't feel it was necessary, our way of protesting was jumping on buildings" by now circle ups are how they protest. **Youth Brodrick E.** also talked about his time at Jetson, although he has only been there six months.

In closing, the birthday celebration was a blast, like a party should be! We as a family are looking forward to many more years of celebrations as we progress to a more powerful organization. Happy Birthday OJJ! Five years and growing!

BCCY's Culinary Arts Class Helps with OJJ's Fifth Anniversary Celebration

The Culinary Arts students at Bridge City Center for Youth were asked to participate in the OJJ Fifth Anniversary Celebration held at Jetson Center on October 14, 2009.

For this event, **Chef Ron Sonnier** chose 10 of his students to travel to Baton Rouge to help prepare for the celebration. Everyone helped

in making chocolate chip cookies and lemon squares at the culinary arts lab at Bridge City.

For two days the students woke up at 3:30 a.m. to travel to Jetson. After a two hour ride, knowing the youth would be hungry, **Chef Sonnier** greeted them in the kitchen, while **Food Services Director Alethea Bornes** and **BCCY Food Services Staff Yolanda Page** prepared a good hot breakfast to get their day started. With a long list of things to do, the students formed teams and worked together to get the food prepped for the big celebration.

On the second day, they were back up and eager to get the preparations finished. The students were all dressed in their Chefs' whites with Chef Hats, looking good. By 10 a.m. on the day of the function things got pretty hectic as the truck was loaded to carry all of the food from the kitchen to the gymnasium to set up for presentation.

Throughout the event, the students did a great job, helping to serve the guests and assisting them to their tables. They worked very hard and enjoyed every minute of it. They had no problem going to sleep both nights as their hearts and stomachs were full.



Culinary Arts students prepping food for...



...the extraordinary fruit and cheese display.

Chef Sonnier received great accolades on how professional the students were during the celebration and how good the food tasted. All of their beautiful garnishes and hard work really made them feel proud of their accomplishments. **Chef Sonnier** is very proud of his students and is always looking for a challenge for them to gain as much experience as they can.

Bridge City Celebrates the Anniversary

BCCY celebrated the Office of Juvenile Justice five year anniversary October 14 with cake and punch. Employees gathered in the Administration Conference Room to enjoy their refreshments and appreciate the joys of being a part of the OJJ Family. In addition to the celebration staff signed their names on the board to show their support for juvenile justice.



BCCY celebrates with cake for all.

Alexandria OJJ Celebrates the Five Year Anniversary

Alexandria OJJ celebrated the fifth anniversary with a program that highlighted positive changes in the state's juvenile justice system over the past five years. The program was attended by local OJJ staff, stakeholders, partners and youth.

Supervisor Clay Dupuy opened the program by sharing opening remarks from **Dr. Mary Livers**. Clay then summarized OJJ's changes relative to our strategic plan, especially

community resources and reductions in secure custody youth.

Other speakers at the program included **Judge Patricia Koch** of the 9th Judicial District, **Kathy Canerday** of AMikids – Alexandria, **Sharon Lair** of Louisiana Mentors, and local probation officers **Rodney McNeal** and **Donna Desoto**. Alexandria OJJ's celebration also included probation youth **Jared D.** and **Beth M.**, who spoke about their experiences as probationers of OJJ. The celebration ended as we shared punch, cake and photo opportunities.



The Alexandria OJJ staff gather for a portrait.



PPO Donna Desoto cuts the anniversary cake.

Lafayette OJJ Celebrates the Anniversary

OJJ celebrated five years as a cabinet-level agency with a celebration at the Lafayette Office. Iberia Parish **Supervisor Joey Denais** and his unit prepared a huge jambalaya lunch. A delicious cake, proudly bearing the agency logo, was served for dessert.

St. Mary Parish **Supervisor Steve Neef** gave a presentation on the accomplishments and the progress OJJ has made to meet the mission in

the past five years. Two students from the Volunteers of America's Day Program, **Craig D.** and **Lindsey H.**, spoke about how the services offered by OJJ helped them turn their lives around. Several representatives from local service providers and courts were in attendance, including the **Hon. Edward Rubin**, 15th Judicial District.



Chef Joey, after preparing the jambalaya.



PPOs Mike Waters, Chris Potier, Ronald Rogers and Lynnette Broussard, helping themselves to some delicious jambalaya.



PPS Steve Neef giving the keynote speech at the anniversary celebration.



PPS Ernie Bejeaux and Hon. Edward Rubin, discussing how to further the OJJ mission.

Not to be outdone, the Opelousas Office held a celebration of its own. **PPO Chris Leblanc** treated the Opelousas office to a fantastic lunch, the main dish being a gumbo he prepared.

PPS Steve Neef and **RM Sharon Guillory** wish to thank **PPSs Ernie Bejeaux** and **Joey Denais**, **PPOs Justin Beasley**, **Kevin Broussard**, **Kristi Credeur**, **Michelle Deshotel**, **Cassandra Gardiner**, **Deacon Jones**, **Rosanna Langner**, **Chris Leblanc**, **Kalen Smith**, and **Andrea Potier**, **Social Workers Stephanie Ledet** and **Maria Menard** and **Clerical Supervisor Cheryl Denais** for their time, hard work, and dedication in making the celebration a success.

Lake Charles Celebrates the Anniversary

The Lake Charles Office celebrated five years of reform with a program. Attendance at our celebration party was better than expected. Three residents from Boys Village spoke to us about how reform has impacted them. **PPS Melissa Cross**, **PPO Karli Pullard**, and **PPO Delisa Clark** all recalled our agency prior to reform and expressed appreciation for changes implemented as a result of reform.

Monroe OJJ Celebrates the Anniversary

Monroe OJJ joined in the celebration of our agency's Fifth Anniversary by hosting a program in our Regional Office. Guests enjoyed cake and punch. Staff members participating in the program were **PPS Larry Tolbird**, **PPS Karl Wallace**, **PPO3 Gary Hunter**, and **PPS Gail Wilson**. The guest speaker was **Fourth Judicial Assistant District Attorney Johnny Sanders**, pictured below with **Karl Wallace**.



Natchitoches OJJ Celebrates the Anniversary

The Natchitoches Times covers the event. Photo and story below:



Natchitoches Times Published: Friday, October 23, 2009
12:40 AM CDT

The Natchitoches Office of Juvenile Justice celebrated its fifth anniversary at the regional office at 116 South Drive Oct. 14, with refreshments. **Dee A. Hawthorne**, Tenth Judicial District Juvenile Court Judge **Dee A. Hawthorne** was the guest speaker. Hawthorne applauded the Office of Juvenile Justice for its support and influence on the community and its participation and involvement in case management for drug court. Attending were Region 8-B providers, facility personnel, judges, district attorneys, local law enforcement agencies and FINS officers from DeSoto, Red River, Sabine and Natchitoches parishes. At left is the anniversary cake. In photo at right are Hawthorne and program specialist **Monique LaCour** who presided over the celebration and presented an overview of the office and agency mission. LaCour presented Hawthorne with a polo shirt with the office logo.



New Orleans/Jefferson OJJ Celebrates the Five Year Anniversary

Orleans/Jefferson Region 1 celebrated OJJ's Fifth Anniversary. We heard encouraging experiences from staff, providers and some of our own OJJ youth. After the program we enjoyed cake and punch.



Lydia Johnson, the event organizer, with the cake.



Adm. Supervisor Patrice Guy, Adm. Coordinator Bridgette Dillon, Adm. Coordinator Karen Ragan and Adm. Coordinator Romona Julian.

Shreveport OJJ Holds Anniversary Celebration

On October 14 Shreveport OJJ held its local celebration in honor of OJJ's fifth anniversary. Local judges and community providers were invited to attend. **PPS Rick Ladner, PPS Guy May and PPS Mitchell Lane** presided over the celebration.



Shreveport OJJ staff celebrate the fifth anniversary.

Swanson Celebrates the Anniversary

On October 14th, Swanson staff were invited to go by the Staff Development building for cake and punch in recognition of OJJ's fifth anniversary.

Tallulah Celebrates OJJ's Anniversary

Tallulah OJJ hosted an Anniversary Celebration on October 14th. The office was decorated in a fall theme. OJJ staff and guests enjoyed cake and punch along with other delicious goodies.



Tallulah OJJ celebrated the Fifth Anniversary, above and below, with refreshments and good company.



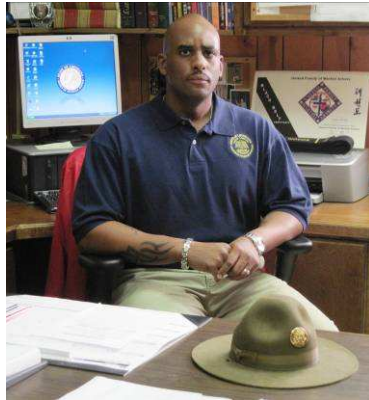
Thibodaux OJJ Celebrates the Anniversary

Thibodaux OJJ held its Five Year Anniversary October 14. **SSC Reshonn Saul** read a brief message about OJJ's five years of progress and remarks from Dr. Livers.

Special thanks to everyone who helped make this celebration a success. Also, a special thanks to everyone who strives to make a difference in a child's life.

Staff Spotlight

Spotlight on...



James Woods, Training Specialist 3 Swanson Center for Youth

Training Specialist 3 James Woods spends his life taking care of young people. When he's not working at Swanson, he serves as a U.S. Army Drill Sergeant, and he and his wife Teicha are the parents of four children aged 2 to 12 years old. Working at Swanson is also a family affair for the Woods – Teicha is a teacher at Swanson's Southside Alternative School.

Director Carolyn Atkins said "James recently returned from active military duty. He has been in the military for 15 years, and with Swanson for 14 years. James motivates the staff, and he is an outstanding role model for both staff and youth."

James started his career at Swanson 14 years ago as a cadet, and received regular promotions, becoming a Training Specialist in 2005. He enjoys teaching staff about agency policy and procedures, Safe Crisis Management and the therapeutic La MOD program. James has served as the commander of the Swanson TAC/Emergency Response Team.

"I enjoy being a part of changing kids' lives," said James. "At Swanson we help kids learn

to make better decisions. As a drill sergeant, my job is to change them from boys into men in three months. The kids don't have a clue, and I enjoy seeing that light click on when they get it."

"Even though we're in (SCY) Training, we still interact with the youth," James continued. "We sit on the Youth Council and meet with the kids from each dorm to discuss issues and needs, and we communicate that to the staff. It works very well."

"The Training Department adopted a dorm," James said. "We adopted Holly D, a La MOD dorm for older kids. **Glenda Joshua (SCY Training Coordinator)** goes to the meetings and talks with the kids. We are working on setting up some projects for the kids, bringing in motivational speakers, going to speak at schools. We spend time talking with the kids – they really like that."

Just back from a four-month tour of duty with the U.S. Army, James attended drill sergeant school at Ft. Jackson, South Carolina. His military career as an active reservist has been unique – James spent ten years as a Marine in an infantry unit, and also completed Sniper School training. He sat out for a few years and re-enlisted in the Army. Holding a black belt in Taekwondo, James also teaches Combatives in the Army, a form of Jujitsu. He began studying Martial Arts at age five, and studied Aikido in the Marine Corps. James noted that these three forms of martial arts are totally different from Safe Crisis Management (SCM) used in our secure care facilities.

James recently went to Ft. Sill, Oklahoma, to prepare an Army class for graduation. "It's completely different from working at Swanson," James noted. "In the Army, you belong to Uncle Sam." James confirmed that real-life Army drill sergeants are just like what we see in movies. "As a drill sergeant, you have to be hard on recruits. You are taught to get in their face; it's all about teaching discipline and structure," he said. "You have

to tear the privates down, but at the end of the day, you have to build them back up. You have to be their dad and their mama, their doctor. You have to see that they eat, that they are taken care of. The drill sergeant is totally in charge of the privates.”

“I enjoy what I do,” James went on. “My father and grandfather were Marines. That’s what I know.”

James and his family enjoy a quiet, simple life filled with family events. Their daughter is a cheerleader and studies gymnastics, while the boys play football. James said he never misses a game. “I’m happy to raise my children here in Monroe, it’s a quiet city and a good place to raise a family.”

“I like to exercise and to stay in good shape,” James said, “I get up at 4 a.m. and go to the gym three times a week. I run two and a half miles four times a week. I’m constantly moving. I love cleanliness and order. I try to keep the Training Building in good order – I can’t function if it’s not organized. I try to give 110 percent.”

James attended Louisiana Tech and Northeast Louisiana University, and plans to go back to school in the spring to finish his degree.

He often arrives at work early and leaves late because he enjoys working with the kids. “Working with young people is a mission, whether it’s at home, at work or in the military,” James said. “It’s all about the kids.”

James clearly meets the OJJ mission - at the same time he is meeting his personal mission. OJJ is fortunate to have James as a member of the team.

Congratulations to OJJ Field Services Employees of the Quarter

We are pleased to announce the 2009 Third Quarter Employee Awards. **Deputy Assistant Secretary Carolyn Lewis** notes that all of the award recipients have done an excellent job.

Region One

Officer of the Quarter: Cheryl Pringle, Monroe

Region Two

Officer of the Quarter: Lynette Broussard, Lafayette

Region Three

Supervisor of the Quarter: Melissa Cross, Lake Charles

Officer of the Quarter: Rebecca Harmon, Lake Charles

Support of the Quarter: Annette Stoddard, Lake Charles

Region Four

Supervisor of the Quarter: Johnny Prentice, Hammond

Officer of the Quarter: Christy Ford, Hammond

CQIS POLICY UPDATES

A.1.13 Influenza Preparedness, Response and Recovery, 10/22/09

A.2.36 Recoupment of Overpayments, 9/30/09

C.4.1 Furlough Process and Escorted Absence, 10/28/09

Revisions to A.2.5 Family and Medical Leave of Absence, 11/5/09

Transitions

Comings and Goings.....welcome to new members of the OJJ Family:

BRIDGE CITY

Paula Duhon, Corrections Sergeant
Javonda Lennox, Corrections Sergeant
Kourtney Pratt, Youth Care Worker 1
Alton Winters, Corrections Cadet

HAMMOND

Jerelmy Carr, Field Agent (Temp. Appt.)

JETSON

Shondrae Derouen, Corrections Sergeant
Patricia Kelley, Youth Care Worker 4
William Wilson, Corrections Sergeant

MONROE

Reginald Chaptman, Probation & Parole Officer 1
Mark Miller II, Probation & Parole Officer 1

SWANSON

Robert Sanderlin, Corrections Cadet
Victoria Wallace, Social Worker 6-B

TALLULAH

Jessica Southern, Probation & Parole Officer 1

DETAILED**SHREVEPORT**

Sandra Ersoff, Probation & Parole Officer 3

PROMOTIONS**BRIDGE CITY**

David Allen, Corrections Captain
Ivory Glover, Corr. Juv. Food Production Supervisor

JETSON

Fouad Harb, Program Coordinator Social Services

MONROE

Orlando Davis, Probation & Parole Supervisor-JUV
Hannah Dozier, Probation & Parole 3-JUV
Willie Hunter, Probation & Parole 2-JUV

REALLOCATIONS**ALEXANDRIA**

Heath Wallace, Probation & Parole Officer 3 –JUV

MONROE

Cheryl Pringle, Probation & Parole Officer 2-JUV

NEW ORLEANS

Rosie Collins, Probation & Parole Officer 3-JUV
Dorothy Crump, Probation & Parole Officer 3-JUV
Lemoyne Reine, Probation & Parole Officer 3-JUV

SHREVEPORT

Todd Carlisle, Probation & Parole Officer 2-JUV

SWANSON

Anitra Hunter-Fields, Corrections Sergeant

RETIREMENT**SWANSON**

Billy Varner, Corrections Major

Alexandria Regional Office

Congratulations

We are proud of **PPO1 Robert Harris** for completing firearms and chemical weapons. Robert is currently attending the Alexandria Police Academy.

We are proud to have these dedicated and hardworking employees with our agency:

Congratulations to **Pamela Oakes** who was promoted from a PPO3 to PPS.

October saw the following anniversaries:

Sharon Graham celebrated 20 years with OJJ.

Cassandra Conston celebrated 15 years with OJJ.

John Baker celebrated 20 years with OJJ.

Lori Johnson, Heath Wallace and **Donna Desoto** attended the Nature or Nurture Seminar for Substance-Exposed Children at LSUA and received training certificates.

We said goodbye to **PPO1 Mitchell Thiels**.

Baton Rouge Regional Office

Baton Rouge OJJ attended OJJ's Five Year Anniversary Celebration at Jetson. Several members of our staff assisted the JCY staff to ensure the celebration was a success!

Congratulations

Employee of the Month is **PPO2 Patsy Adams**.

Trainings – we participated in the following training opportunities:

Juvenile Sex Offender Assessment Protocol II
Candidacy Service Plan

Leadership Training for Supervisors (Rickey Cannon, Joyce Watkins, Michelle Thomas, Susan Miller)
PREA

Bridge City Center for Youth

Congratulations

Employees of the Quarter for the third quarter are:

Leticia Green - Supervisor
Audrey Gilton - Support Staff
Marcema Monterroso - Treatment Employee
Ivory Watts - Youth Care Worker/Security
Thelma White - Administrative Employee

BCCY Holds Community Partnership and Positive Attitudes Celebration

Youth who have volunteered with a variety of community partners were honored at a recent program. A number of youth received certificates of appreciation from the organizations they have served.

The new Bridge City Praise Team, under the direction of **Principal Dorean Phoenix, Captain Seletar Gosa** and **Librarian Gaynell Adams**, performed for the guests at the beginning of the program.



The Praise Team performs.

The Praise

Dr. Mary Livers opened the program with a welcome, and **Deputy Director Michael Gaines** explained that the volunteer program is part of the new therapeutic model that

focuses on rehabilitation. Mr. Gaines said we are trying to help our youth build better relationships and develop better habits. Young people who demonstrated good behavior and adhered to all rules at the facility were allowed to participate in the volunteer program. "Every kid can learn, unlearn and re-learn," Gaines said.

Our youth were praised by the representatives of the community organizations. **Sonya Aucoin**, with the Southeastern Louisiana War Veterans Home in Reserve, said the two young men who volunteer there brighten the day of veterans. She said are respectful, well-behaved and ultimately a testament to the great job being done at the facility. "They are amazing young men, and y'all can be very proud of them," Ms. Aucoin said.



Guests at the Community Partnership and Positive Attitudes Celebration.

The youth gave short speeches about how they benefited from the volunteer program and the opportunity to help others. **Darnell H.** said volunteering gave him a special appreciation for the sacrifices made by veterans. "When I visited the war veterans home, I was told I was making a difference in the community, but I felt a difference in me," he said.



Darnell H. talks about his volunteer experience at the Southeast Louisiana War Veterans Home.

Youth were presented certificates from:

Blake A. and Robashi H. – Herbert Wallace Memorial Volunteer Fire Company

Joseph W. and Kody G. – Kelly McLemore of the Second Harvest Food Bank

Rashide A. and Darnell H. – Sonya Aucoin and Richard Musacchia of the Southeastern Louisiana War Veterans Home

Jarvis B. – Pastor Jack Battiste of New Testament Baptist Church

Derrick S. – Barbara Levy of the Bridge City Senior Center

Jarvis B. – Youth Care Worker Doris Duckett, representing Bridge City Elementary School

Joseph W. – April Adams of the Military Entrance Processing Station, for achieving a high score on the ASVAB Test

Mrs. Margaret Burnaman of Williams Blvd. Baptist Church gave an overview of volunteer service to Bridge City youth. Mrs. Burnaman was introduced by **Mrs. Dorothy Favorite.**

The parent perspective was presented by **Mr. Kevin Smith.** He spoke about the changes he has seen in his son since he has been at Bridge City.

The Culinary Arts students under **Chef Ron Sonnier** prepared and served delicious refreshments for the guests.



Culinary Arts students prepared refreshments and served the guests.

After the program guests took a tour of the facility and visited some of the dorms, the dining hall and the school. They were able to visit with some of the youth and observe some of the La MOD group processes.

We received two letters from guests who visited Bridge City for the program.

“Dear Ms. London:

I was very impressed with what you and your staff have accomplished. Even though Bridge City Center for Youth is a secure care facility where the most troubled young men are housed, you and your staff have created a very friendly, private, high school campus atmosphere. The modern, family-style barracks that the individual groups of young men reside in are excellent.

Additionally, I was extremely pleased with the programs and services your facility offers to these young men. The skills being acquired truly help when integrating these youth back to society.

I commend you and your staff for your positive attitude and enthusiasm. Thank you for such an exceptionally wonderful job. This facility is a model for other facilities in our state.

Yours truly,
Judge James “Jim” Lamz
City Court of Slidell”

“Dear Ms. London:

I sincerely thank you for giving me an opportunity to attend the celebration of honoring the Youth and Staff Contributions to the Community recently held at BCCY. Not only was the facility very impressive but I applaud your accomplishments and positive progress with this endeavor.

Please keep me informed of upcoming events....I would be very elated to speak with the youth.

Sincerely,
John I. Shaddinger, Jr.
Mayor, City of Westwego”

ACA Roll Out Held

Bridge City held its ACA Rollout in September. The event began with our Step Team entering the gymnasium performing a welcoming stomp. Explaining the acronym ACA (American Correctional Association), Cherise Gougisha, BCCY’s Compliance Director, introduced the judges, welcomed everyone and gave an overview of ACA. She explained the purpose and meaning of ACA and gave a brief synopsis of how ACA Accreditation will help provide a safer environment, improve training, upgrade operations and much more. She also explained the importance of staying audit ready.



Cherise Gougisha, ACA Compliance Director

After the introduction of the ACA, the fun

began. Each dormitory was given a chance to perform and display posters concerning ACA. **FAITH** Dorm performed by describing the meaning of their dorm; **LIBERTY** Dorm sang "We are the World" by Michael Jackson; **SERENITY** Dorm danced to the Cupid Shuffle; **DESTINY** Dorm read a quote from the Bible (John 3:16), followed by a poem; **PERSERVERENCE** Dorm Youth **R. Parker** read an original poem entitled "You Got to Feel;" **UJIMA** Dorm sang a song; **HOPE** Dorm danced to the beat of "Walk it Out" and **DIGNITY** Dorm danced to the beat of "Bounce."

Winners in the poster contest were: first place, **PERSERVERENCE**, second place **LIBERTY** and third place, **FAITH**.

For the Best Performance, first place winner was **FAITH**, second place winner was **DIGNITY**, and third place winner was **PERSERVERENCE**.

These youth exhibited great talent and took pride into this competition. For displaying such excellent talent, each winner received an award.

Once the event came to a close, the youth sent off balloons to officially acknowledge ACA Rollout.

In the words of Director **Linda London**, **ONE TEAM, ONE DREAM, STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE**.

Youth Enjoy Off-Campus Trip to the Movies

Six youth were recently approved to go off campus to see the movie "*I Can Do Bad All by Myself*", written and directed by Tyler Perry. Mr. Perry is a famous screen writer and producer who helps empower and transform individuals into positive characters in his movies. The lessons in his movies can relate to real life situations/experience and can teach people how to resolve conflict and come

up with other alternatives that can create a better or positive outcome.

Here at BCCY these are the lessons we teach our youth. As a facility we will continue to work on empowering our youth with movies and other therapeutic interventions that will foster growth and development.

BCCY'S La MOD Class Graduates



The La MOD class with a wonderful homemade cake celebrates graduation.

BCCY's LAMOD class #14 graduated in October. The class included 10 Youth Care Workers/Officers: **Virgil Delpit, Shantez Bean, LaFranka White, Montresa Johnson, Daniel Armstrong, Dominique Domino, Wilma Covington, Marlene Kaili-Sailor, Regina Payne** and **Julian Tennessee**, three SSD staff: **Chavez Phelps, Evan Slater** and **Jeffrey Wheelahan**; one recreation staff: **Horace Williams**; one social services intern: **Matthew Hilliard**; and two Jetson staff: **Angel Paul** and **Alton Coleman**. The class brought delicious food for a potluck on graduation day and Mr. Coleman made a beautiful cake with a picture of the class on it. A wonderful time was had by all!

The La MOD class with Staff Development Coordinator Julie LaRose, left.



Youth Assist Second Harvest Food Bank

As a part of our year-round restorative justice efforts, BCCY youth volunteer at Second Harvest's Food Bank. Their efforts assist the food bank in its goal of providing food to America's hungry. The youth said that the experience was positive, while the staff at the Food Bank were grateful, as most of their workforce consists of volunteers.



BCCY youth volunteer at the Second Harvest Food Bank.

"PINKTOBER" - Supporting the Cause

Supporting the cause is what we believe in. So for the month of October the BCCY family hosted Breast Cancer Awareness Activities.

On Pinktober 22, we hosted our first annual walkathon. Staff actively participated by walking around the campus.

On Pinktober 23, 2009, we hosted Pink Out/Fun Friday Event. Staff wore pink apparel to represent Breast Cancer Awareness, and enjoyed a meal. Both events turned out to be a huge success. Employees really enjoyed themselves.



Pink was the campus color during Pinktober, supporting Breast Cancer Awareness.

BCCY Staff and youth participating in a "Pinktober" walkathon.



Central Office

Congratulations

Dr. Livers and the Executive Team surprised two members of the central office staff with Awards of Excellence. **Administrative Program Director Lynne Geromini** and **IT Applications Project Leader Sean Labat** were recognized for their outstanding work.



Dr. Livers and

Sean Labat.



Dr. Livers with Lynne

Geromini.



Central Office raised funds for Breast Cancer Awareness by raffling a huge basket filled with pink goodies. The winner was Suzanne Ponders, of State Police, center, accepting the basket from Director of Education Kim Mims, left, and Dr. Livers' secretary Nita Franklin-Shanklin, right. Second place winner was HR Supervisor Amanda Lewis and third place winner was Purchasing Director John Fruge'.

Welcome Home!



We welcome **Executive Management Officer Debbie Linder** back from Monroe, where she served as Acting Director of Swanson for several months. CQIS staff graced her ceiling with balloons as a gesture of their appreciation.

Treats on the Street

Central Office celebrated fall and Halloween with "Treats on the Street" – staff set goodies and treats outside their offices in the hallways ("streets") for everyone to share and enjoy.



Paralegal Kim Lemaire set up her spooky Pumpkin People in the conference room on Livers Lane.



Program Managers Nancy Gautreau and Perla Steele trick-or-treating at the intersection of Mission Blvd. and Vision Road.



Deputy Assistant Secretary Carolyn Lewis and her neighbors on Takin' Care of Business Turnpike set out a feast for all to enjoy.

Ace photographer **Administrative Assistant Anne Carter** sneaked a few candid shots of staff enjoying the celebration along Saints Drive, The Avenue, Roddy's Rowe, Happy Hall Freeway, Action Court, Wicker's Outlet and Ethics Avenue.



Nita Franklin-Shanklin preparing for take-off.



Mrs. Drac at work on Juvenile Justice Junction.

Hammond Regional Office

The Superstar for the month of October was **PPO Shirley Verberne** who was nominated by **PPS Dawnita Hodge** for assisting in the secure step-down process by sending packets to Harmony Center.

Jetson Center for Youth

Congratulations

Jetson's Employees of the Quarter are:

Rosena Abdulaziz – Administrative Employee

Karlita Anderson – Supervisor

Andrea Barnardez – Education Employee

Javonna Jones – Treatment Employee

M/Sgt. Emanuel McClinton – Youth Care Worker

Thaddeus Williams – Support Employee

Promotions

Micon Gaines – Youth Care Worker 4

Fouad Harb – Social Services Program Coordinator

Ron Jarrell – Corr. Major

Welcome

We welcome the newest members of the Jetson family:

Patricia Kelley – YouthCare Worker 4

Shondrae Derouen – Corr. Sergeant

William Wilson – Corr. Sergeant

Youth Attend LSU Halloween Activity

**By Chasity Richardson,
Social Service Counselor III**

In October the FAST Track youth at Jetson were invited to participate in the Trick or Treat event at the East Campus Activity Center at LSU. Upon their arrival, the youth were immediately welcomed by campus residents who served as tour guides.

The youth walked door to door and met with residents in festive costumes who gave out just as many spooky tricks and an assortment of treats. When the trick or treat adventure ended, the youth went to the activity center

where they enjoyed refreshments, painted pumpkins, and watched *Charlie's Halloween*.

The night ended with the youth participating as judges in a costume contest among the campus residents.

Some of the youth reported feeling excited for having the experience for the first time, of walking about the campus grounds, and for seeing a real "college experience". Other youth reported being shocked because they were not in shackles and trusted to walk around the campus freely.

Many thanks to LSU and **Director Daron Brown** for the opportunity that our young men were able to experience.

Lafayette/Opelousas Regional Office

Employment Anniversary

St. Mary Parish **Supervisor Steve Neef** celebrated his 20th year with OJJ in October. Steve has 23 ½ years with the state overall.

Staff Help their Youth Celebrate Accomplishment of Graduation

As all of us who work in the juvenile justice system know, truancy is a main cause of so many youths entering the court system. So many times, we see wasted talent with youths who drop out of high school. That's why when a youth who enters our system for truancy graduates high school, it is a major accomplishment that should be celebrated.

The Lafayette/Opelousas Region is collecting for graduation rings for two youth, **Ebony B.** from Vermilion Parish, and **Anthony J.** from St. Mary Parish. These youth are seniors at their respective high schools, but were unable to afford to pay for graduation rings, as a memento of their accomplishment.

Vermilion Parish **PPO Rhonda Gallet** and St. Mary Parish **PPO Karla Meranto** brought this to the attention of the office, and money is being collected for these youths. We want these youth to take pride in their accomplishments, and want them to have something grand to show for it. Great job, both of you!

Lake Charles Regional Office



The new Lake Charles office continues to take shape. The staff eagerly awaits being able to move in. Photo by ACA Manager Angela Arabie.

October was a stressful and busy month for Lake Charles OJJ.

In October Lake Charles OJJ participated in a Quality Assurance Review. Our staff worked hard to clean and organize the office in preparation for the review. The comments received were positive, and we are proud of the efforts made by our staff! Thanks for all of your hard work!

Staff Members' Generosity and Effort Help Others

In October we participated in a benefit lunch for a local young lady who works at Troop D and has been diagnosed with acute leukemia. She is undergoing treatment at M.D. Anderson Hospital in Houston, and needs assistance with medical costs. **PPO Fred Fontenot** organized the lunch! Thanks, Fred.

Our officers must be commended for their generosity. **PPO Rebecca Harmon** occasionally offers small incentives to her kids if they make weekly goals, such as attending school all week. **PPO Karli Pullard** often recruits previously owned items in good condition to donate baby clothes and car seats to our pregnant youth. Many of our officers show generosity on a frequent basis.

Thank you to **PPO Fred Fontenot** and **PPO Angie Stevens** for going above and beyond for our kids. These officers volunteered their Sunday to transport kids to YCP.

The Southwest Louisiana Marine Institute held a fall graduation in October.

In October **PPOs Fred Fontenot, Karli Pullard, Alexis Heflin** and **Ronald Gilchrist** competed with the Boys Village residents in a friendly game of basketball. Ball calls were made to see how the youth responded and to grant opportunities to "Circle Up." The kids showed no mercy, and our officers got a workout!

RM Ann Vick visited Chicago with the JDAI team during the month of October.

PPS Ken Vidrine travelled to Baton Rouge and represented the Lake Charles Office for OJJ's Five Year Anniversary celebration at Jetson, and at the Leadership Meeting.

PPS Melissa Cross and **PPS Ken Vidrine** enjoyed the Supervisors' Training in Zachary, near Jetson. It was nice to network with other supervisors around the state.

PPO Karli Pullard and **PPO Delisa Clark** ("the Barney Fife-ettes") are grateful for their new **Glocks!** They eagerly await being transitioned from revolvers to their new state-issued semi-automatics!

Monroe Regional Office

Welcome

Monroe OJJ welcomes two new Probation Officers to the family:

Reginald Chaptman and **Mark Miller II**

Congratulations

PPO 3 Orlando Davis was recently promoted to Probation & Parole Supervisor.

PPO 2 Hannah Dozier was recently promoted to a PPO 3.

Monroe OJJ staff participated in additional SAVRY training provided by **Dr. Laura Guy**.

All Monroe OJJ Supervisors and **Regional Manager Patty Newman** participated in a day of Supervisor's Training at the Public Safety Administration Building in Monroe.

First Aid/CPR Training was conducted for Monroe OJJ staff in October. We would like to thank **Program Specialist Jacqueline Page** for providing this mandatory training.

Natchitoches Regional Office

Ware Youth Center Intensive Residential Secure Facility held an open house in October as a grand opening for their new buildings.



The new multi-purpose building at Ware Youth Center.



Pictured from left to right - Kenneth A. Loftin, Executive Director of Ware Youth Center; Scotty Hill, board member; Charles Walker, board member; Lem Jones, board president of Ware Youth Center; Warren Perkins, board member; Ronnie Land, board member and Honorable Joe Salter, Former State Representative and Speaker of the House.

New buildings include three cottages holding eight girls each; a multi-purpose building to house counseling, a classroom, dietary area and full size gymnasium; and a Regional Training Center.

Congratulations

Regional Manager Randall Hill and his wife Tammy, are proud of their daughter **Amy**. She was nominated for the Homecoming Court by her peers and was one of seven chosen to represent Louisiana Tech on the Homecoming Court.



Randall Hill, Amy, Abby and Tammy.

New Orleans/Jefferson Regional Office

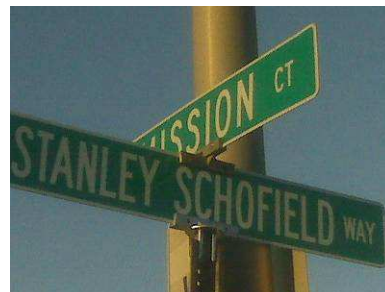
PPO3 Stanley Schofield is honored for his work with Youth



PPO3 Stanley Schofield

PP03 Stanley Schofield was surprised with an appreciation dinner in honor of his hard work and dedication to the youth of the local community. The program entitled "An Appreciation Dinner for "Coach" (Stanley's nickname), was attended by a host of friends, family, co-workers and neighbors.

Stanley was presented with a proclamation from both the Jefferson Parish Council and the New Orleans City Council, recognizing him for 40 years of service to the Kennedy Heights Community and Playground, 30 years of service as Juvenile Probation Officer in the New Orleans area serving the youth of this community and more than 20 years as a motivational speaker. Stanley was also honored with his very own street! **Stanley Schofield Way** is the official street name. We are all extremely proud of Stanley and would like to once again commend him for all his hard and meaningful work. Congratulations, Stanley!



Coats Collected for OJJ Families

Social Worker Roxann Tuircuit is coordinating a coat drive for local OJJ families that we serve. Roxann has diligently campaigned for coat and jacket donations from staff, with a great deal of cooperation. Some of the donated items have never been used or worn. We are expecting a successful drive and a large turnout. Roxann's goal is to distribute a minimum of 50 coats. Thanks Roxann, for having this much-needed coat drive.

A note to those who have donated coats:

We can't thank you enough for your recent coat donations. People often take clothing for granted--until you don't have any. Please know how much you've helped our families and how much we all appreciate it.



Sincerely,
Kelly Clement, RM
Roxann Tuircuit, MSW, GS



Coats collected for OJJ client families.



PPS Shawn Herbert's Actions Save a Family



PPS Shawn Herbert

PPS Shawn Herbert serves our community both on the job and off. Shawn was taking her son to the barber recently when she noticed a vehicle on fire. Shawn immediately reacted, got her son to safety and instructed the family in the vehicle, who did not know it was on fire, to exit the car immediately. She got the family out of the way (all while on the phone with 911) and redirected traffic until Jefferson Parish Police arrived on the scene. The vehicle was soon engulfed in flames. The officers commended Shawn for her help and we would like to do the same. *Thanks Shawn!*

RM Angela Koenig is now working in the Thibodaux Office. Staff gave Angela a wonderful send-off with lots of good food, well wishes and tears. The Orleans Region also warmly welcomes **RM Kelly Clement**. We are looking forward to working with him.



Angela shows off her going-away cake.



The team gathers for a family photo to wish Angela well.

Shreveport Regional Office

Congratulations



PPO LaNita Lars was honored by being selected as **Shreveport OJJ Employee of the Month for October**. PPO Lars is a dedicated worker, and she always has a positive attitude.

PS Jan Crain welcomed her second grandchild this month. Jan's daughter, **Courtney Montgomery**, delivered a daughter, **Evangeline Mae Montgomery** on October 13. Evangeline weighed 8 lbs, 1 oz and was 20 1/2 inches long. Congratulations to Jan and her family on the newest grandchild!

Shreveport OJJ supervisors **PPS Guy May**, **PPS Kim Scott**, **PPS Rick Ladner**, **PPS Mitchell Lane** and **PPS Steve Martino** traveled to Monroe to attend OJJ supervisory training at Swanson in October.

Rutherford House held its annual Halloween Party for residents. Youth were able to participate in games and activities including pumpkin painting. **PS Jan Crain** attended the event.



Jan Crain noted "the lengths some of our providers will go to help the kids enjoy a holiday."

Swanson Center for Youth

Annual Talent Show Held

In October Swanson held its annual youth talent show with the theme "Swagger". Youth from several dorms participated, showing off their talent in singing, dancing and story writing.

Social Services Counselor V Tammie Franklin organized the event, bringing in judges who work in the music industry. The winner of the talent show was Victor W. from MHTU dorm. When Victor sat down and began playing the drums, he absolutely amazed the crowd. When asked prior to the talent show if he needed to practice, Victor stated, "No, I'm a professional." And that he could very well be!



Victor W. with Director Carolyn Atkins, and below, on the drums.



JJIC Visits Swanson

JJIC members **Lt. Governor Mitch Landrieu** and **State Representative Bodi White** visited Swanson in October.

Lt. Gov. Landrieu and Rep. White, along with several local elected officials including **State Senator Francis Thompson**, **State Representatives Rosalind Jones and Frank Hoffman**, **District Attorney Jerry Jones** and **Ouachita Parish Sheriff Royce Toney**, and central office staff, toured the campus and spoke with youth and staff. The visit went well in spite of the very rainy day.

Tallulah Regional Office

Welcome

We welcome our newest staff member, **PPO1 Jessica Southern**, who comes to us from Franklin Parish Sheriff's Office.

Bosses' Day Celebration

We showed our bosses how much we appreciate them by presenting them with large ferns. **RM Ruth Stephens**, **Johnnie Bowman**, **Margo Corulla** and **Patricia Dense**, thanks for all you do.

Thibodaux Regional Office

Welcome

Thibodaux OJJ welcomes **T.J. Malveaux**. He joins our team from Monroe Region.

Three youths from the Thibodaux Region earned their GEDs!!! Congratulations !!!!

The Inside Scoop...of OJJ

The Inside Scoop...of OJJ is published monthly to communicate with and about OJJ staff in offices and facilities throughout the state, about agency activities, happenings and items of interest.

The Inside Scoop...of OJJ is produced by the Central Office with

...until next month

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Girard J. Melancon, *Assistant Secretary*
Alan M. Boxberger, *Undersecretary*
Paula Merrick-Roddy, *Deputy Undersecretary*
Carolyn B. Lewis, *Deputy Assistant Secretary, Community Based Services*
Philippe Magloire, *Deputy Assistant Secretary, Facilities*
Ellyn Peterson, *Chief of Operations, Continuous Quality Improvement Services*
Michelle Smith, *Deputy Assistant Secretary, Special Projects*
Marlyn Goins-McCants, *Family & Community Liaison*
Kim B. Mims, *Director of Education*
Martha Morgan, *General Counsel*
Gwendolyn Jones, *Human Resources Director*
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Jetson: Daron Brown
Lafayette/Opelousas: Kevin Broussard
Lake Charles: Melissa Cross
Monroe: Gail Wilson
Natchitoches: Rosa Brownlee
New Orleans: Paulette Carter & Judy Warren
Shreveport: Kristen McKee & Kristi Martin
Swanson: Kristi Walker
Tallulah: LaJuana Harrell
Thibodaux: Allison Lirrette

SPEAK (Special Projects, Expertise and Knowledge)

Michelle Smith, *Deputy Asst. Secretary, Special Projects*
Jerel Giarrusso, *Communications Director*
Fran Martin, *Director of Staff Development*
Shaeki Shanklin – *Administrative Coordinator*